

Mineral Industry Surveys

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NICKEL IN MARCH 2006

Reported domestic nickel consumption in March, on a daily average basis, decreased about 10% compared with that of February and increased about 28% compared with that in March 2005, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Sales of nickel to platers averaged about 26 metric tons per day in March, about 16% lower than those of February. Imports of nickel for

consumption through February were slightly higher than those of the same period in 2005. Trade data for March will appear in a subsequent report. Percentages reported in this paragraph are based on data concealed to avoid revealing individual company proprietary data.

TABLE 1
CONSUMPTION OF NICKEL (EXCLUSIVE OF SCRAP), BY FORM AND USE¹

(Metric tons, nickel content)

Period	Cathodes, pellets, briquets, and powder	Ferronickel	Oxide-sinter, salts, and other forms	Total	Total year to date ²
2005:					
March	5,090	567	44	5,700	16,900
April	5,410	430	50	5,890	22,800
May	5,010	520	41	5,570	28,400
June	5,440	541	44	6,020	34,400
July	4,590	378	38	5,010	39,400
August	5,060	437	42	5,540	45,000
September	5,190	658	44	5,900	50,800
October	5,230	708	44	5,980	56,800
November	5,220	585	57	5,860	62,700
December	4,750	619	52	5,420	68,100
January-December	61,100	6,450	544	68,100	XX
2006:					
January ^r	6,760	831	71	7,660	7,660
February ^r	6,390	842	66	7,300	15,000
March:					
Steel:					
Stainless and heat resisting	2,500	776	W	3,280	10,100
Alloy (excludes stainless)	365	--	--	365	1,000
Superalloys	1,160	--	W	1,160	3,540
Copper-nickel alloys	W	--	--	W	W
Electric, magnetic, and expansion alloys	13	--	--	13	43
Other nickel & nickel alloys	W	--	W	W	W
Cast iron	W	--	--	W	W
Electroplating (sales to platers)	815	--	--	815	2,570
Chemical and chemical uses	W	--	--	W	W
Other uses	1,570	--	68	1,640	4,980
Total reported	6,420 ³	776	68	7,270	22,200
Total all companies (calc) ⁴	XX	XX	XX	13,700	41,800
2006: January-March	19,600	2,450	207	22,200	XX
2005: January-March	15,200	1,570	134	16,900	XX

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other uses" category. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revisions to previous month(s) data.

³Of consumption, 4,060 metric tons were consumed as cathodes and pellets, the remainder as briquets and powder.

⁴Figures represent calculated apparent consumption; based on the revised proportion of reported primary consumption (53.17%) to apparent primary consumption for 2003.

TABLE 2
ENDING STOCKS OF NICKEL (EXCLUSIVE OF SCRAP) HELD BY CONSUMERS,
BY FORM AND USE^{1,2}

(Metric tons, nickel content)

Period	Cathodes, pellets, briquets, and powder	Ferronickel	Oxide-sinter, salts, and other forms	Total
2005:				
March	2,270	279	140	2,690
April	1,900	285	141	2,330
May	2,000	274	144	2,420
June	1,860	310	132	2,300
July	1,610	283	141	2,030
August	1,680	276	139	2,100
September	1,680	273	153	2,110
October	1,660	279	147	2,090
November	1,720	307	147	2,170
December	2,050	300	146	2,500
2006:				
January	1,830 ^r	300 ^r	153	2,280 ^r
February ^r	1,960	354	154	2,470
March:				
Steel (stainless, heat resisting and alloy)	610	396	(3)	1,010
Nonferrous alloys ⁴	1,120	W	(3)	1,120
Foundry (cast irons)	(3)	W	--	(3)
Chemical (catalysts, ceramics, plating salt, etc.) and unspecified uses	128	W	167	295
Total	1,860	396	167	2,420

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Stocks held by companies that consume nickel in more than one end-use category are credited to the major category. Stocks are subject to revisions owing to inventory adjustments.

³Included in the "Chemical and unspecified uses" category.

⁴Includes superalloys, nickel-copper and copper-nickel alloys, permanent magnet alloys, and other nickel alloys.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION AND ENDING STOCKS OF PURCHASED SECONDARY NICKEL, BY USE¹

(Metric tons, nickel content)

Period	Consumption			Stocks		
	Ferrous scrap ²	Nonferrous scrap ³	Total scrap	Ferrous scrap ²	Nonferrous scrap ³	Total scrap
2005:						
March	4,510	799	5,310	2,490	96	2,590
April	4,930	762	5,700	2,510	95	2,610
May	3,790	776	4,560	2,620	93	2,710
June	4,520	698	5,220	2,810	115	2,930
July	4,120	658	4,780	2,740	102	2,840
August	4,360	748	5,110	2,630	113	2,740
September	4,490	709	5,200	2,800	99	2,900
October	5,000	638	5,640	3,010	110	3,120
November	5,520	611	6,130	2,630	98	2,730
December	4,530	593	5,130	2,470	89	2,560
January-December	56,200	8,380	64,600	XX	XX	XX
2006:						
January	3,710	708	4,420	2,600	100	2,700
February	4,130	654	4,790	2,850	92	2,950
March	4,290	828	5,120	2,930	93	3,030
Total	12,100	2,190	14,300	XX	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Nickel content is calculated from an average nickel content and the reported gross weight of scrap.

³Combined consumption and stocks of aluminum-base, copper-base, and nickel-base scrap.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF NICKEL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, nickel content)²

Period and country of origin	Cathodes, pellets, and briquets	Powder and flakes	Ferro-nickel	Metal-lurgical-grade oxide	Waste and scrap	Stainless steel scrap	Chemicals	Total ³	Total year to date ⁴	Wrought nickel
2005:										
February	10,200	596	2,040	122	524	853	360	14,700	28,200	95
March	7,600	1,010	1,950	488	629	750	334	12,800	40,900	81
April	11,100	813	1,820	325	515	1,070	316	16,000	56,900	65
May	9,140	866	1,260	257	595	831	407	13,400	70,300	75
June	9,010	335	2,470	--	583	776	308	13,500	83,800	119
July	9,050	543	1,700	--	633	624	177	12,700	96,500	89
August	10,500	772	1,370	--	447	402	295	13,800	110,000	116
September	9,410	500	1,890	--	645	443	294	13,200	123,000	94
October	8,410	794	728	17	719	505	286	11,500	135,000	63
November	9,690	714	1,240	107	689	581	277	13,300	148,000	94
December	7,310	423	877	110	608	731	291	10,400	159,000	128
January-December	110,000	8,120	19,300	1,540	7,170	8,340	3,620	159,000	XX	1,060
2006:										
January	11,800	971	864	80	651	717	307	15,400	15,400	76
February:										
Australia	1,190	21	--	--	12	--	--	1,230	2,140	--
Brazil	396	--	--	--	--	--	--	396	772	--
Canada	4,380	375	--	174	62	553	14	5,550	11,900	--
China	98	--	--	--	--	4	1	103	126	(5)
Colombia	--	--	220	--	--	--	(5)	220	400	--
Dominican Republic	--	--	836	--	--	--	--	836	1,470	--
Finland	541	8	--	--	--	--	61	610	1,550	--
France	106	--	--	--	133	--	191	430	578	14
Germany	--	1	--	--	8	(5)	56	65	186	25
Japan	--	3	--	--	24	1	32	60	98	2
Mexico	--	--	--	--	22	206	1	229	464	--
New Caledonia	--	--	250	--	--	--	--	250	300	--
Norway	781	--	--	--	8	--	--	789	2,520	--
Russia	2,190	61	--	--	--	--	--	2,250	5,080	--
South Africa	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	40	179	--
Sweden	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	3	--
United Kingdom	8	58	--	3	90	--	14	173	524	21
Zimbabwe	36	--	--	--	--	--	--	36	114	--
Other	21	7	--	--	20	7	65	120	394	12
Total	9,740	575	1,310	177	379	771	435	13,400	28,800	74
2006: January-February	21,600	1,550	2,170	259	1,030	1,490	742	28,800	XX	150
2005: January-February	19,200	1,350	3,980	235	1,110	1,630	639	28,200	XX	135

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²The nickel contents are assumed to be as follows: metallurgical-grade oxide (77%), waste and scrap (50%), and stainless steel scrap (7.5%). The chemicals category includes chlorides (25%); sulfates (22%); other salts (22%); supported catalysts (22%); and oxide, sesquioxide, and hydroxide (65%).

³Excludes wrought nickel.

⁴May include revisions for prior months.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF NICKEL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, nickel content)²

Period and country of destination	Cathodes, pellets, and briquets	Powder and flakes	Ferro- nickel	Metal- lurgical- grade oxide	Waste and scrap	Stainless steel scrap	Chemicals	Total ³	Total year to date	Wrought nickel
2005:										
February	31	165	3	3	877	3,960	316	5,360	9,620	57
March	91	160	12	7	1,070	3,990	289	5,630	15,200	131
April	82	190	6	4	902	5,710	344	7,230	22,500	104
May	84	373	11	2	777	3,230	452	4,930	27,400	129
June	168	176	9	2	523	2,950	460	4,280	31,700	214
July	173	113	4	3	814	3,020	335	4,460	36,200	105
August	91	84	--	1	1,270	3,350	506	5,300	41,500	156
September	147	85	4	5	1,150	3,950	315	5,650	47,100	105
October	134	148	1	8	1,040	3,450	281	5,070	52,200	94
November	70	116	(4)	5	1,000	3,640	271	5,100	57,300	79
December	80	87	21	33	1,080	4,200	430	5,940	63,200	99
January-December	1,190	1,910	72	234	11,700	43,800	4,230	63,200	XX	1,340
2006:										
January	105	107	15	12	1,200 ^r	4,100	387	5,920 ^r	5,920 ^r	158
February:										
Australia	--	2	--	--	27	--	--	29	36	3
Belgium	--	2	--	--	--	9	--	11	99	--
Canada	(4)	15	--	--	686	86	108	895	2,130	5
China	--	1	1	1	--	1,190	16	1,210	2,310	12
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	906	--	906	1,880	--
Germany	1	9	--	--	9	4	10	33	84	1
India	--	1	--	--	(4)	178	--	179	339	(4)
Italy	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	992	(4)
Japan	(4)	9	--	1	19	31	19	79	211	8
Korea, Republic of	--	5	--	--	--	152	18	175	423	6
Mexico	118	3	--	--	1	--	12	134	222	13
Netherlands	--	(4)	--	--	--	34	30	64	209	(4)
South Africa	--	--	--	1	16	--	2	19	22	--
Sweden	--	--	--	--	31	--	--	31	64	--
Taiwan	2	1	--	--	17	275	--	295	644	--
United Kingdom	--	6	--	4	54	17	7	88	170	(4)
Other	4	32	7	1	--	70	148	262	501	58
Total	125	87	8	8	860	2,950	370	4,410	10,300	106
2006: January-February	230	194	23	20	2,070	7,050	757	10,300	XX	263
2005: January-February	69	376	4	163	2,110	6,360	544	9,620	XX	120

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²The nickel contents are assumed to be as follows: metallurgical-grade oxide (77%), waste and scrap (50%), and stainless steel scrap (7.5%). The chemicals category includes chlorides (25%); sulfates (22%); other salts (22%); supported catalysts (22%); and oxide, sesquioxide, and hydroxide (65%).

³Excludes wrought nickel.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF NICKEL ALLOYS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought alloyed ingot	Bars, rods, and profiles	Wire	Plates and sheets	Foil	Tubes and pipes	Other alloyed articles	Total	Total year to date
2005:									
February	329	255	422	257	49	175	202	1,690	3,420
March	361	294	629	316	16	103	173	1,890	5,320
April	241	338	486	274	33	143	176	1,690	7,010
May	310	355	662	324	43	148	152	1,990	9,000
June	437	422	558	260	20	159	237	2,090	11,100
July	325	342	603	275	29	64	194	1,830	12,900
August	447	360	462	242	20	172	293	2,000	14,900
September	644	314	500	241	34	176	156	2,070	17,000
October	491	333	480	241	20	170	466	2,200	19,200
November	551	214	629	262	16	286	198	2,160	21,300
December	429	295	552	221	35	183	243	1,960	23,300
January-December	4,840	3,740	6,580	3,150	350	1,850	2,790	23,300	XX
2006:									
January	557	379	478	354	6	204 ^r	137	2,110 ^r	2,110 ^r
February:									
Australia	182	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	182	364
Belgium	19	--	7	--	--	5	--	31	80
Canada	18	(2)	9	--	--	36	29	92	194
China	--	--	5	--	--	1	79	85	168
France	--	(2)	156	9	--	44	2	211	383
Germany	125	120	153	262	1	44	2	707	1,420
Italy	--	88	16	--	(2)	1	10	115	262
Japan	--	--	3	1	--	9	3	16	138
Mexico	--	--	(2)	--	(2)	--	2	2	4
Netherlands	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	8	8	16
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Sweden	1	16	177	3	--	49	--	246	498
United Kingdom	77	49	18	1	--	4	9	158	285
Other	12	19	6	--	1	5	191	234	345
Total	434	292	550	276	2	198	335	2,090	4,200
2006: January-February	991	670	1,030	630	7	403	472	4,200	XX
2005: January-February	602	475	1,020	491	85	242	506	3,420	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF NICKEL ALLOYS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Period and country of destination	Unwrought alloyed ingot	Bars, rods, and profiles	Wire	Plates and sheets	Foil	Tubes and pipes	Other alloyed articles	Total	Total year to date
2005:									
February	910	1,050	104	392	10	163	278	2,910	5,900
March	1,200	1,350	178	388	7	200	404	3,730	9,630
April	499	1,350	135	340	8	190	281	2,800	12,400
May	1,200	1,170	158	378	3	191	268	3,370	15,800
June	726	1,220	108	275	5	216	272	2,820	18,600
July	1,130	1,060	170	409	5	211	293	3,280	21,900
August	1,010	1,310	114	301	9	285	360	3,390	25,300
September	565	1,250	92	398	26	237	286	2,850	28,100
October	731	1,100	125	393	27	417	401	3,190	31,300
November	628	1,430	104	335	5	419	288	3,210	34,500
December	762	1,510	65	282	3	243	267	3,130	37,700
January-December	10,400	15,000	1,440	4,200	119	3,000	3,580	37,700	XX
2006:									
January	472	1,460	67	358	35	645	251	3,280	3,280
February:									
Australia	--	4	(2)	1	--	1	6	12	16
Belgium	69	442	8	29	(2)	--	(2)	548	857
Canada	15	61	19	26	4	56	23	204	407
China	(2)	154	3	54	--	27	39	277	500
France	93	313	(2)	12	4	2	1	425	746
Germany	36	84	3	11	1	10	2	147	223
India	--	2	--	1	--	2	1	6	9
Ireland	--	--	1	(2)	--	--	(2)	1	3
Israel	6	110	2	2	--	(2)	--	120	271
Italy	65	10	1	9	(2)	3	(2)	88	145
Japan	52	45	1	12	3	11	2	126	491
Korea, Republic of	--	29	1	35	(2)	(2)	1	66	278
Mexico	(2)	82	20	13	3	104	162	384	722
Netherlands	--	(2)	--	2	--	3	5	10	21
Singapore	2	(2)	1	5	--	3	(2)	11	24
Spain	12	--	1	1	--	8	(2)	22	47
Sweden	--	(2)	(2)	10	2	(2)	13	25	46
Switzerland	20	(2)	2	6	(2)	(2)	1	29	66
Taiwan	(2)	1	(2)	14	--	6	4	25	53
United Kingdom	2	299	20	46	2	7	3	379	863
Other	39	14	8	32	--	34	73	200	600
Total	411	1,650	91	321	19	277	336	3,110	6,390
2006: January-February	883	3,110	158	679	54	922	587	6,390	XX
2005: January-February	1,910	2,230	188	704	21	388	465	5,900	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
NICKEL CONSUMPTION IN CAST AND WROUGHT PRODUCTS

	Percent	
	Wrought	Cast
March 2006:		
Stainless and heat resisting steels	100	(1)
Alloy steels	76	24
Superalloys	90	10
Copper-nickel alloys	97	3
Other nickel-base alloys	100	(1)

¹Less than ½ unit.

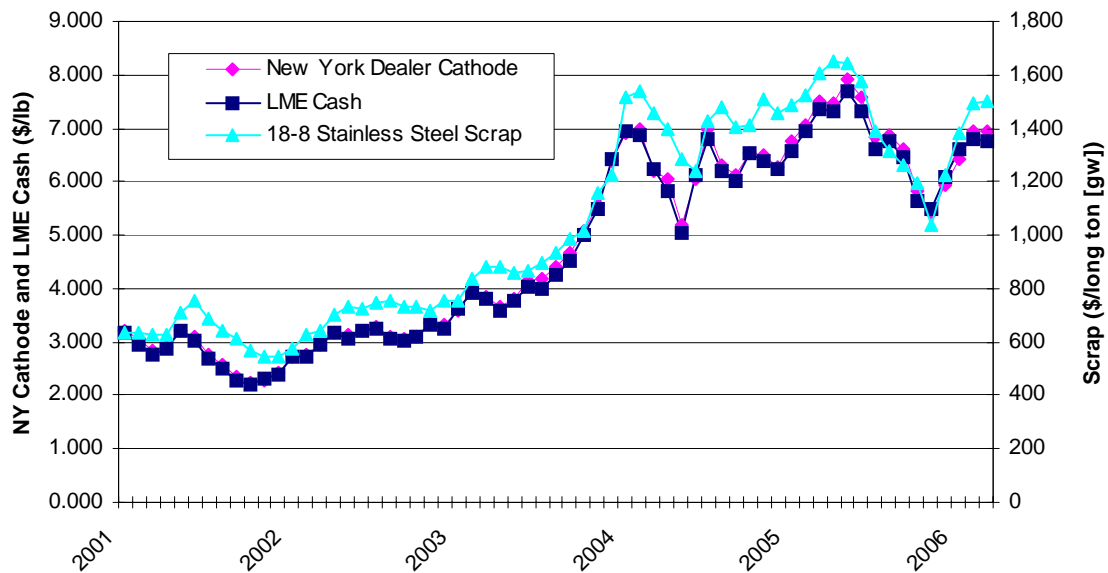
TABLE 9
NICKEL PRICES

Date	Platts Metals Week				American Metal Market
	Cathode NY Dealer \$/lb.	LME Cash mean ¹ \$/t	LME Cash mean ¹ \$/lb.	18/8 Stainless steel scrap free market \$/long ton (gw)	18/8 Stainless steel scrap Pittsburgh \$/long ton (gw)
2005:					
Average for month of:					
April	7.480	16,136.429	7.319	1,647	1,685
May	7.920	16,919.750	7.675	1,645	1,629
June	7.564	16,154.432	7.328	1,578	1,610
July	6.820	14,570.833	6.609	1,390	1,538
August	6.863	14,886.932	6.753	1,315	1,388
September	6.610	14,223.088	6.451	1,260	1,388
October	5.840	12,396.548	5.623	1,194	1,350
November	5.429	12,111.477	5.494	1,038	1,244
December	5.923	13,425.625	6.090	1,225	1,193
Yearly average	6.814	14,737.960	6.685	1,409	1,469
2006:					
Average for week ending:					
April 7	7.228-7.856	16,183.500	7.341	1,500-1,525	1,500-1,525
April 14	7.855-8.355	17,526.250	7.950	1,575-1,600	1,525-1,550
April 21	8.435-8.637	18,608.750	8.441	1,675-1,725	1,525-1,550
April 28	9.219-9.492	19,463.000	8.828	1,800-1,850	1,525-1,550
May 5	8.764-9.191	19,407.500	8.803	1,775-1,850	1,800-1,825
May 12	9.136-10.293	20,749.500	9.412	1,875-1,950	1,800-1,825
May 19	9.749-10.565	20,839.000	9.452	1,875-1,950	1,800-1,825
May 26	10.049-10.747	22,141.000	10.043	1,950-2,050	1,800-1,825
Average for month of:					
January	6.408	14,549.643	6.600	1,379	1,275
February	6.944	14,975.000	6.793	1,497	1,387
March	6.949	14,893.043 ^r	6.755 ^r	1,499	1,493
April	8.184	17,931.806	8.134	1,656	1,531
May	9.425	21,064.524	9.555	1,909	1,813

^rRevised.

¹Mean of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

2001-2006 AVERAGE MONTHLY PRICES (Derived from Metals Week and American Metal Market quotations)



2001-2006 STOCKS

